

LATINO COMMUNITY REPORTIF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, **PRINT** YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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**LATINOS**

## SUMMIT REPORT | 2010

OREGON LATINO AGENDA FOR ACTION

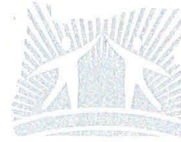
*One United Voice-Una Voz Unida*





## OUR MISSION

*To catalyze and coordinate statewide efforts  
promoting the social and economic  
well-being, political capacity,  
& civic leadership of the  
Latino community in Oregon,  
through an open, non-partisan, & participatory  
model of regional engagement.*





Dear Friends,

After many months of planning and engaging with the Latino community in Oregon and supporting organizations, the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action held its first statewide Summit on October 17-18, 2010, at the Salem Convention Center in the state's capitol. Why? To gather as a community with One United Voice-Una Voz Unida, and articulate ways to improve the lives of all Latinos in Oregon.

This report offers a "snapshot" of the findings of the Summit that prioritize the needs of the Latino community through a united voice to advocate for fair policies, practices, and to facilitate the work of existing Latino organizations throughout the State.

Respondents to a pre-Summit survey and on-site participants of this historic event shared what mattered to them and their communities. Those comments helped shape an action driven agenda to overturn policies that keep the Latino community silenced and isolated as well as to create policies that support opportunities for the growing Latino community.

This report is also an invitation to increase collaboration and to strengthen our collective voices towards improving the quality of lives of this diverse and growing community. We aim for this document to be relevant and informative to those who desire to advance equal opportunities for all Oregonians. We want the findings and data presented in this report to be beneficial to our partners in their advocacy efforts, to be used to outreach and engage with the community and to secure resources to advance common goals.

Lastly, the Summit was only part of our first steps to create One United Voice-Una Voz Unida, respecting our diversity and honoring differences to support the advancement of the Latino community in the beautiful State of Oregon. We have important work before us and we look forward to forging new collaborations and partnerships.

Sincerely,

**Carlos J. Crespo, DrPH, MS**  
Portland State University Professor  
& Director School of Community Health  
College of Urban & Public Affairs

**Consuelo Saragoza, MPA**  
Senior Advisor of Public Health &  
Community Initiatives, Multnomah County







October 2011

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD  
Governor

Dear Oregonians,

I am honored to support the Oregon Latino Agenda for Action Summit report that convened October 2010. I appreciate your work developing strategies to improve the well-being of our Latino community by addressing inequities, and by actively working on solutions that target identified issues.

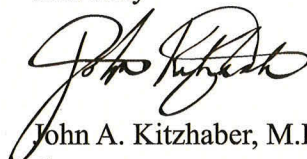
This report highlights the following priorities identified by Latino representatives from across Oregon:

- 1) Top issues impacting the Latino Community
- 2) Development of a process for statewide outreach
- 3) A call to action

The Summit provided active participation, engagement, and a voice for Latinos in Oregon. Health, social, and economic disparities are critical issues in the United States. To effectively address them we need to multi-faceted community approach that is capable of accounting for the many social factors that impact our cities, neighborhoods, and communities.

To further assist efforts to reduce disparities in various population gaps, it is imperative that leaders begin fostering a more comprehensive understanding of the need for relevant and responsive policies that will address health service and social justice strategies. With your guidance, we can move forward in developing tools, best practices, and policies that target the reduction of these disparities. I appreciate the partnership and leadership that it took to organize this summit and I look forward to continued success and commitment as we work together to build and sustain healthy communities in Oregon.

Sincerely



John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Governor

JAK/fg

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# THE STATE OF LATINOS IN OREGON

## AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Latinos represented almost 12% of the Oregon population in 2010, and are the fastest growing, youngest segment of the population.

- The median age of an Oregon Latino is 23.6, almost 14 years younger than the national median age for the total population.
- In Oregon and nationally, Latino population growth accounts for a large portion of the total population growth. In the U.S., the Latino population is increasing 4 times faster than the rate of the total population.

26.9% of Oregon Latino families live in poverty compared to 11% of the total population. In real numbers, that is over 85,000 of our families.

34% of Latinos under 65 years of age were uninsured in 2010 -- that is more than twice the uninsured rate of non-Hispanic whites (13.8%).

Latino children face high risk for diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

- 38.5% of Latino children in the U.S. age 12-19 were overweight or obese in 2008.
- Nearly half (46%) of Oregon 8th and 11th graders report getting less than the recommended activity level of at least 60 minutes most days of the week.

Latino children are also the hungriest -- comprising 40% of the hungry children in the U.S.

In 2010, 20% of Oregon's public school students were \*Hispanic and they face significant disparities and disadvantages.

- Latino children were significantly less prepared to start Kindergarten than their white peers.
- 61% of Latino students in Oregon were economically disadvantaged.
- 35% were English Language Learners.
- Latinos were significantly more likely to be suspended and expelled (15.3% in 2009 for Latinos in Multnomah County, 9% for whites)
- Latino students scored 15-29% below white students on standardized tests.
- Only 55.2% of Oregon's Latino students graduated from high school.

In Oregon, the population of undocumented immigrants is estimated at 150,000.

- Currently, 11.2 million people are living in the United States as unauthorized immigrants. 58% are from Mexico.
- A 2008 study in Portland reported that immigrants accounted for 12% of the total economic output of the metro area.
- The US Census Bureau reports that in 2008, immigrants comprised 12.2% of Oregon's workforce.

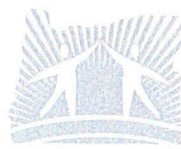
*\*For the purpose of this report Hispanic and Latino are used interchangeably.*







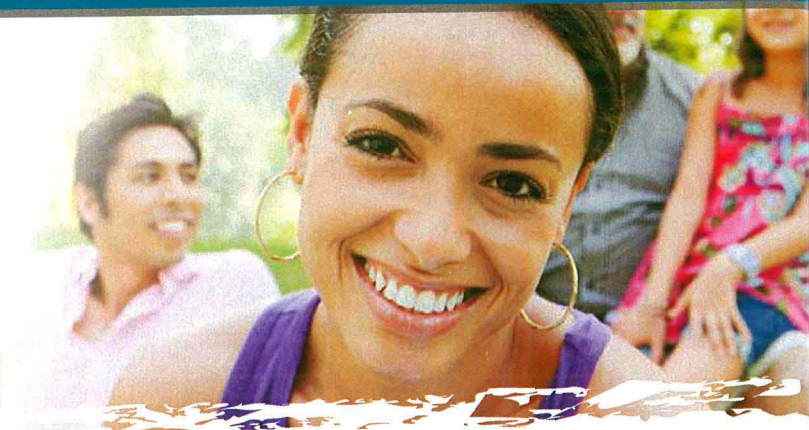
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# ABOUT

## THE OREGON LATINO AGENDA FOR ACTION

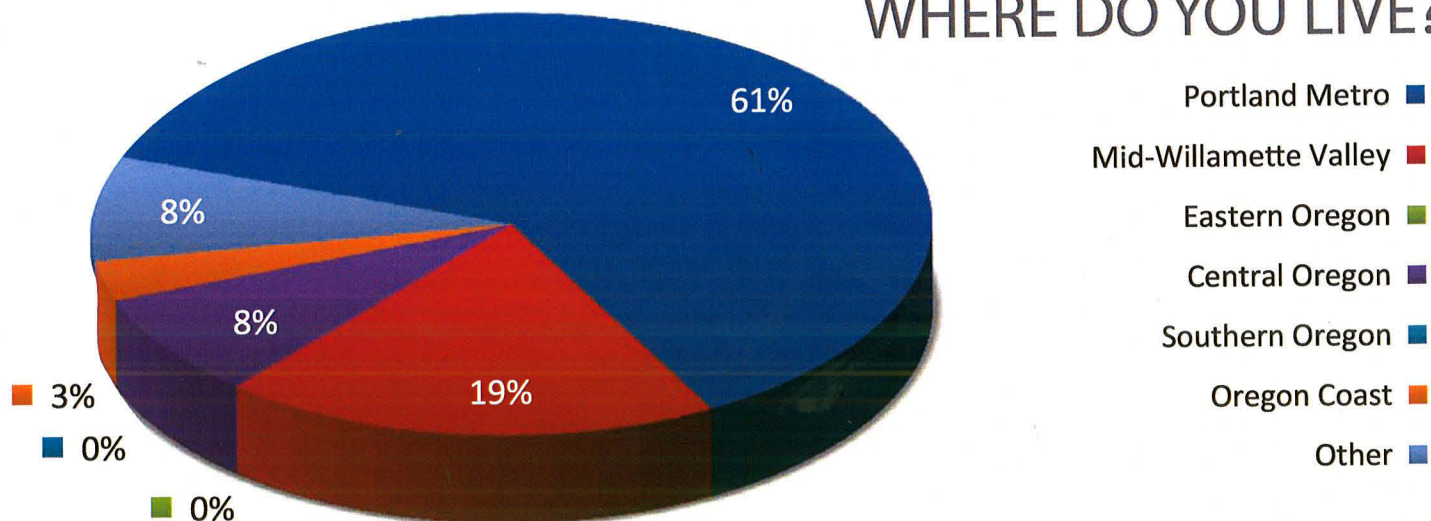


The Oregon Latino Agenda for Action (OLAA) was founded in 2009 to address key issues and concerns for Latinos in Oregon. In hearing those issues, Consuelo Saragoza, MPA, and Dr. Carlos Crespo began to gather individuals to discuss what strategies could be implemented to address them. As a result, three gatherings (Salons) were facilitated by Oregon Consensus of Portland State University with key Latino leadership in 2009-2010. The outcome of the gatherings was to develop a statewide vehicle to identify key action items for our community. OLAA developed a multi-disciplinary committee, worked with professional facilitators, fundraising professionals, and hired summit staff.

In 2010, OLAA convened a statewide summit, inviting a broad-based coalition of organizations, communities, and individuals from throughout the state to come together for the purpose of identifying priorities, advocating for system changes, and developing public policy recommendations. Attendees made a commitment to move an action-oriented agenda forward, regardless of geographic representation, background or politics. They focused on four key issues of particular significance to Latinos in Oregon: Health, Economic Development, Education and Immigration.

Attending the summit was a diverse group of Latinos from around the state. The demographics of attendees closely followed the overall Latino demographics for the state, in that the majority were young and living in urban areas.

## OLAA SUMMIT ATTENDEES WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



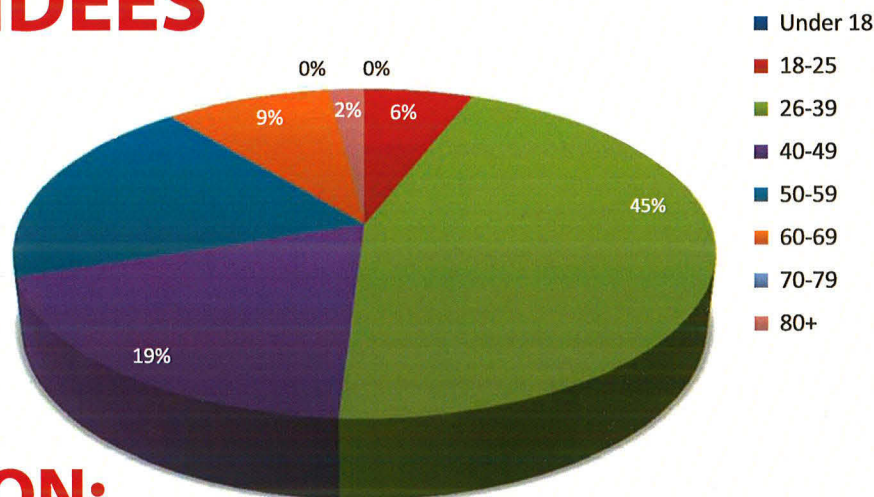


# OLAA

## SUMMIT ATTENDEES

### WHAT IS YOUR AGE?

After completing a two day facilitated process at the OLAA Summit, participants of all ages identified twelve policy action issues that they considered the most important for Latinos in Oregon.



## LATINOS IN OREGON:

### THE DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE

Latinos became a part of Oregon's population starting in the early 19th century, when predominantly Mexican workers came to the territory as vaqueros, miners, and mule traders. The 1920 census documents the presence of 569 Mexicans in Oregon. Since that time, Oregon's Latino population has significantly grown and developed. Today, Latinos comprise approximately 12% of Oregon's population. We are also the youngest and fastest growing population segment in the state. The median age of Latinos in Oregon is 23.6, almost 14 years younger than the national median age (37.2). In fact, the majority of Latinos in America (63%) are below the age of 35 (US Census 2010).



Latino Population in the USA (US Census, 2010)			
	USA	Hispanic/Latino	% of Total
Total Population	308,745,538	50,477,594	16.35%
Population Growth 2000-2010	10%	43%	
Median Age	37.20	27.20	
Population age 17 or younger	74,165,365	17,197,659	23.19%
Population age 17 or younger as % of Total	24%	34%	

Latino Population in Oregon (US Census, 2010)			
	OR	OR Hispanic/Latino	% of Total
Total Population	3,831,074	450,062	11.75%
Population Growth 2000-2010	12%	64%	
Median Age	38.50	23.60	
Population age 17 or younger	866,511	180,911	20.88%
Population age 17 or younger as % of Total	23%	40%	



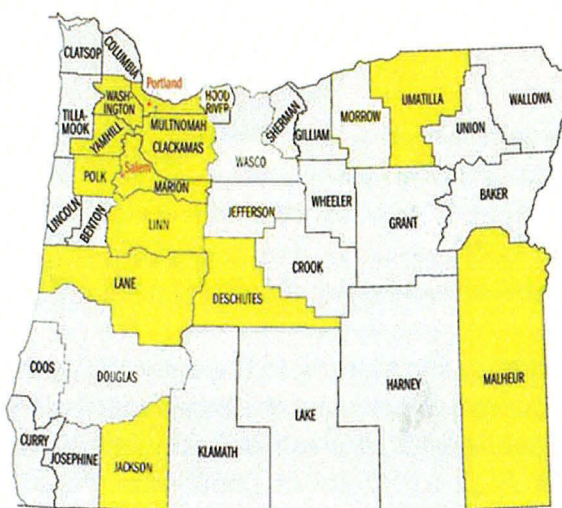


Latino children represent 34% of the national Latino population, while children in general only represent 24% of the total population. And while some population increases come from immigration, over the last decade, birth has dramatically overtaken immigration as a means of Latino population growth in America (Pew Hispanic Center, 2011).

Both in Oregon and nationally, Latino population growth accounts for a significant amount of overall population growth. Nationally, Latino population increased at more than 4 times the rate of the total population (43% v. 10% for the total population) (Pew Hispanic Center, 2011 and US Census, 2010).

Latinos are concentrated geographically in Oregon, with 59% of the population of Latinos living in just 12 counties (Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Oregon, 2011).

## % OF LATINOS BY COUNTY



<u>OREGON</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Hispanics</u>
Washington	15.7	*83,270
Multnomah	11	*80,138
Marion	24	*76,594
Clackamas	7.8	*29,138
Lane	7.4	26,167
Jackson	11	21,745
Umatilla	24	18,107
Yamhill	14.7	14,592
Deschutes	7.4	11,718
Malheur	31.5	9,867
Linn	8	9,127
Polk	12	9,088
Clark	8	34,029

Despite our demographic significance, Latinos continue to experience significant disparities and inequity. The challenges of poverty, poor access to healthcare, educational disparities, and immigration and documentation challenges plague our community.

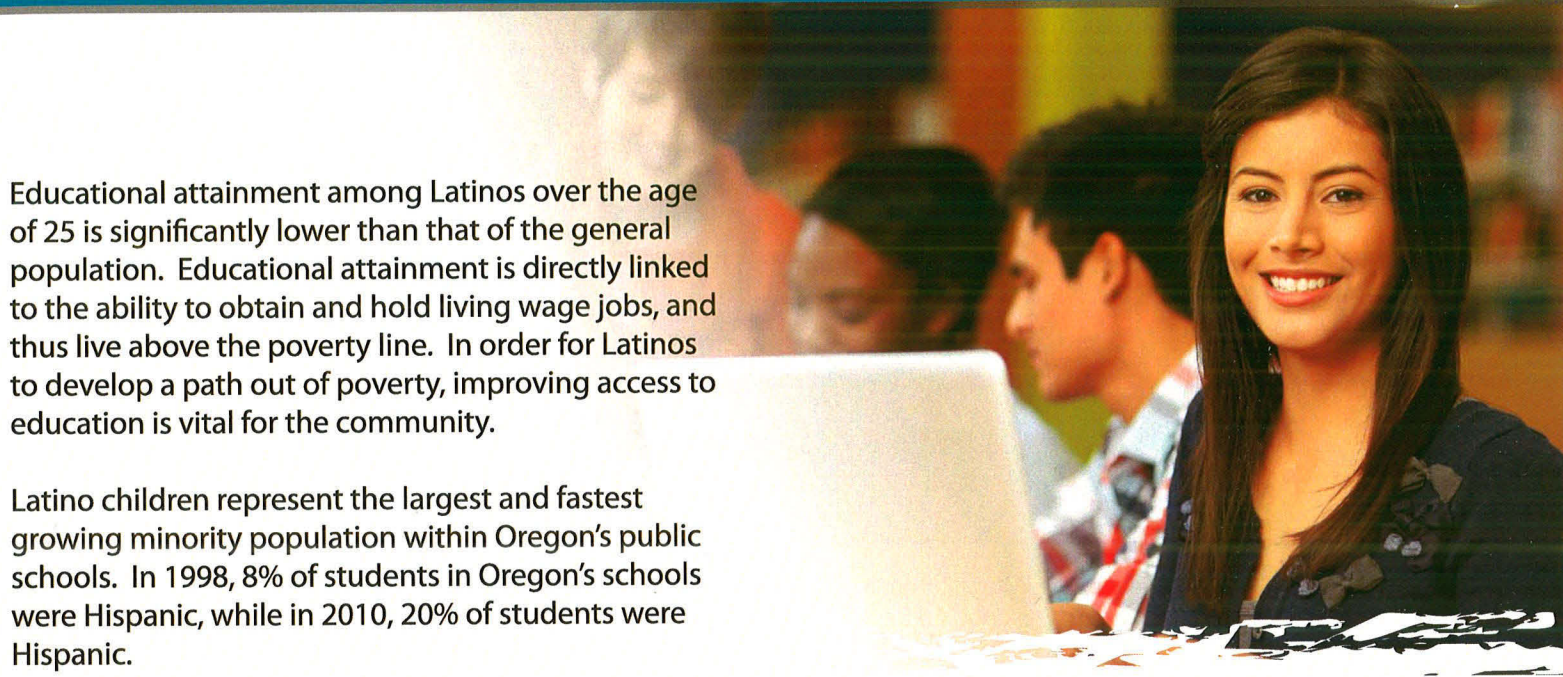
## OLAA'S TOP PRIORITIES FOR OREGON LATINOS

### EDUCATION

Education and educational attainment represent a major source of disparity for the Latino population nationally and in Oregon.





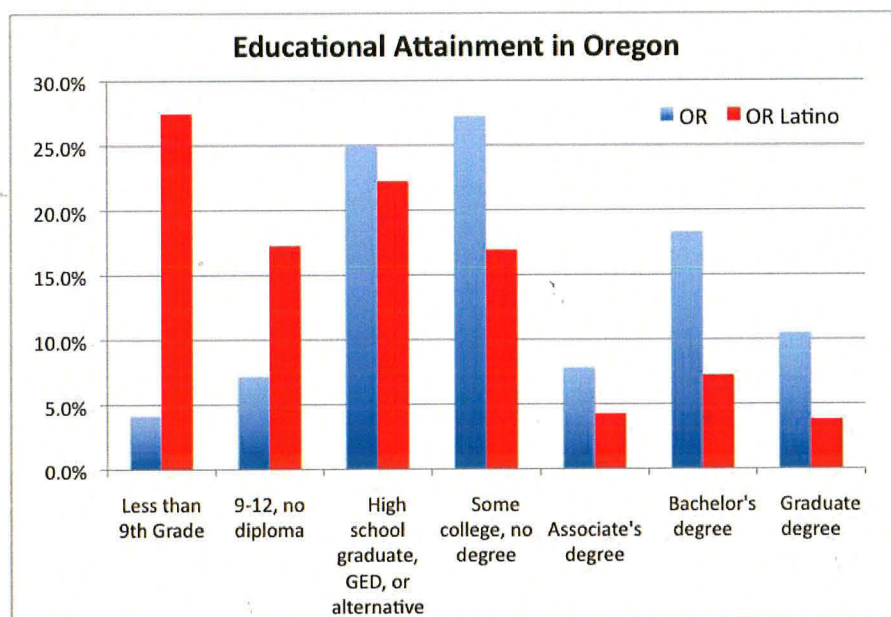


Educational attainment among Latinos over the age of 25 is significantly lower than that of the general population. Educational attainment is directly linked to the ability to obtain and hold living wage jobs, and thus live above the poverty line. In order for Latinos to develop a path out of poverty, improving access to education is vital for the community.

Latino children represent the largest and fastest growing minority population within Oregon's public schools. In 1998, 8% of students in Oregon's schools were Hispanic, while in 2010, 20% of students were Hispanic.

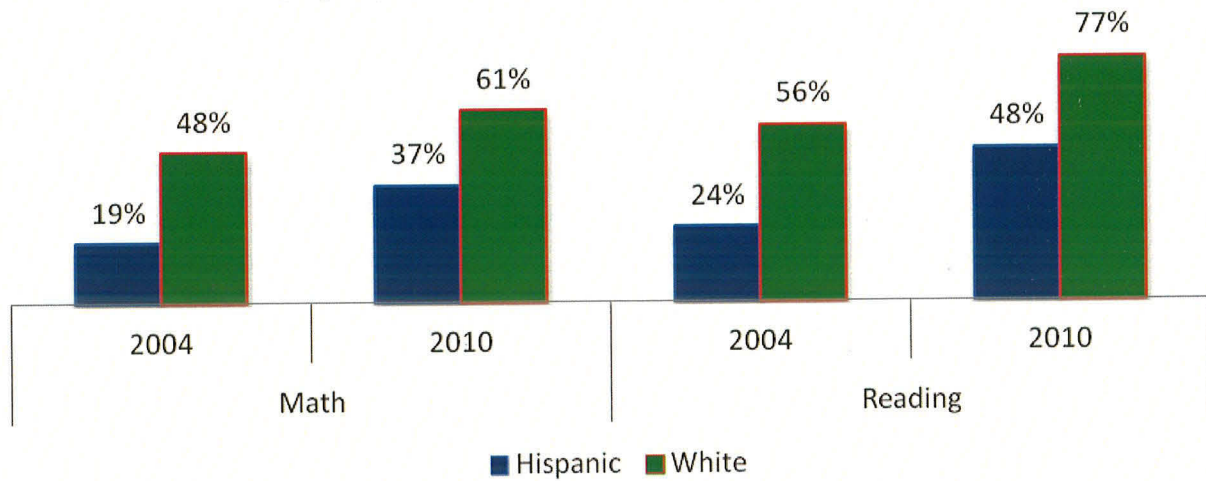
Latino students face numerous disadvantages. According to Oregon Department of Education's Kindergarten Readiness Survey, 2008, Latino children were significantly less prepared to start Kindergarten than their white counterparts. This evaluation was based upon teacher observations of a range of skill areas, including their approach to learning, social and personal development, motor skill development, and language development. 61% of Latino students in Oregon are recognized as economically disadvantaged, and 35% are English Language Learners. Students of color are also significantly more likely to encounter disciplinary measures. Suspension and expulsion rates for Latino students in Multnomah County, a major hub of Latino population, were 15.3% in 2009, compared to 9% for white students.

These disadvantages stack up against Latino students, resulting in marked achievement gaps. Latino students in Oregon score significantly lower than their white counterparts on standardized testing. And while these gaps are declining with time, they are still significant. In 2010, Latino students were still scoring in a range of fifteen to twenty-nine percentage points below white students on standardized tests.



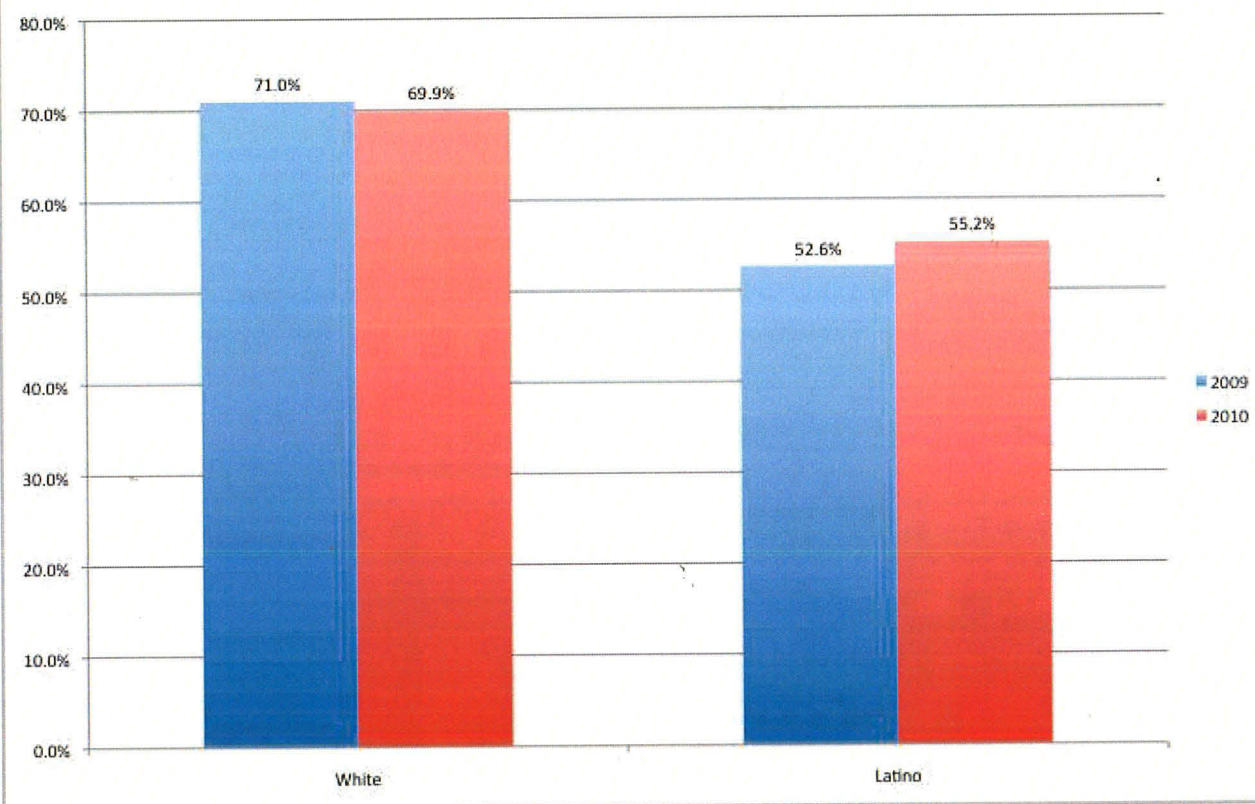


## Oregon 10th Graders Scoring At or Above Benchmark on the OAKS Test



In 2010, only 55.2% of Oregon's Latino students graduated from high school. And while this rate has improved over the last two years, it is still a dismal statistic for our community.

## 2009 and 2010 Graduation Rates, Oregon for Whites and Latinos



In response to this disparity and inequity in education, OLAA participants identified three key policy goals for Latinos in Oregon:



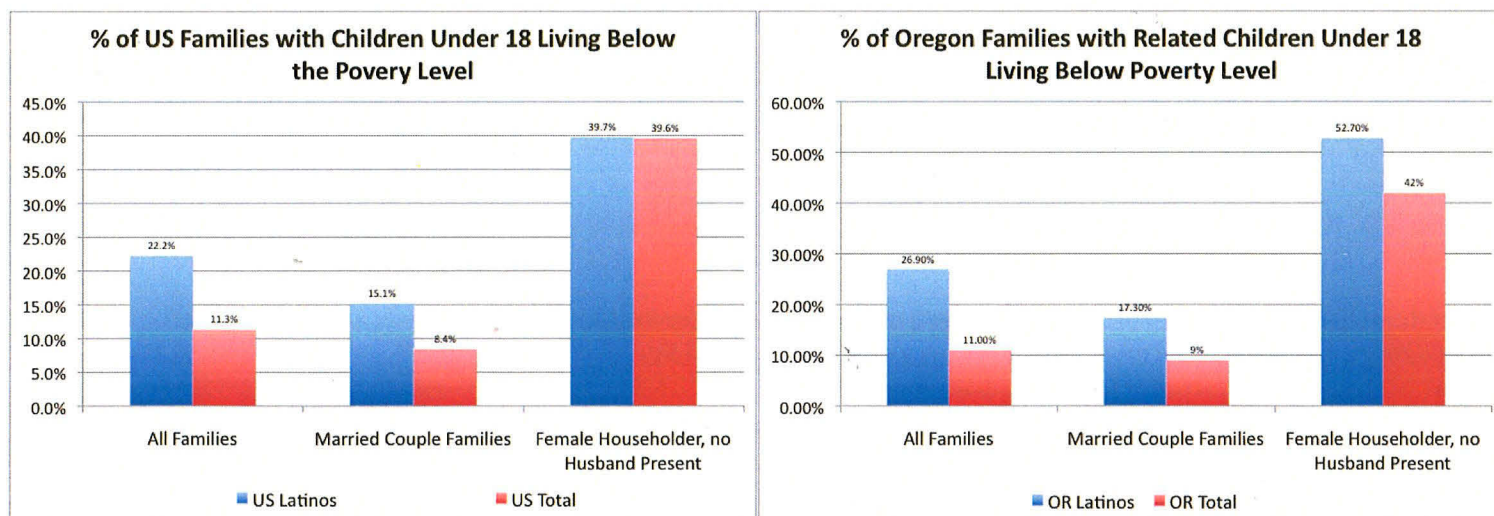


1. Greater engagement and involvement of Latino parents in schools. Foster authentic parent involvement through empowerment training, teacher competency trainings and train-the-trainer programs, with a focus on cradle-to-career.
2. Develop college options for undocumented students. Create system for undocumented students to pursue higher education.
3. Create a multi-sector, statewide Latino education coalition. Form statewide advocacy effort to increase funding of Latino education and bilingual teachers.

## ECONOMIC FACTORS

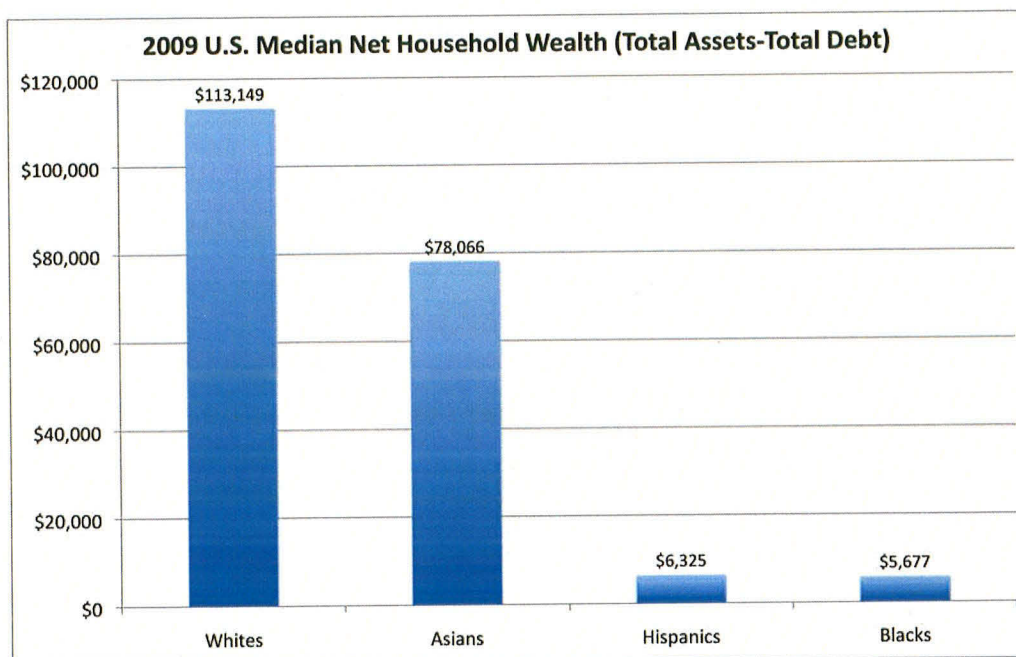
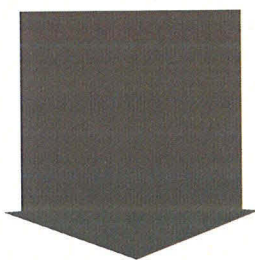
Poverty is an important issue facing Latinos in America, made worse by the downturn in America's economy since 2005. Currently in the United States, approximately 76 million families (11.3%) live below the poverty line. Of those families, over 10 million are Latino (22.2%). Latino poverty is nearly double the national rate of the total population. The situation is even worse in Oregon, where 26.9% of Latino families live in poverty, compared to 11% of the total population. In real numbers, over 85,000 Latino families were living in poverty in Oregon in 2010 (US Census, 2010). Still Latinos represent an estimated \$7 billion in purchasing power (Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Oregon, 2011)

From 2005-2009, the median net wealth of \*Hispanic households in America declined 66%, compared to a 16% decline in median net wealth for White households. (Pew Research Center, 2010) In real numbers, Latino households held net median wealth of \$6325 while White households held \$113,149 (US Census, 2010).





# OREGON LATINOS FACED 14% UNEMPLOYMENT



Latinos are also experiencing a higher unemployment rate than the total population, both in the US and in Oregon. In 2010, nationally, Latinos experienced an unemployment rate of 11.3%, compared to the national 9.1%. While numbers for the same period were not available for Oregon, in 2009, Oregon Latinos faced 14% unemployment compared to the state total's 11.5% (US Census, 2010).

There were 2.3 million Latino-owned businesses in 2007, up 43.7% from 2002. They accounted for 8.3% of all businesses in the U.S., and brought in 1.1% of total business receipts (U.S. Census Survey of Business Owners, 2007). In Oregon, there are 11,339 Latino-owned businesses which have increased in numbers by 78% since 2002. Latino-owned businesses represent the fastest growing sector – there are 3 Latino business starts for every 1 non-Latino business start in Oregon (U.S. Census Survey of Business Owners, 2007 and Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber of Oregon, 2011). They are also among the hardest hit businesses by the recession.

## OLAA'S KEY ISSUES REGARDING ECONOMICS AND EMPLOYEES WERE:

1. Fortify investments in Latino entrepreneurs. Develop and fortify technical assistance programs and nontraditional financing for small businesses.
2. Create a niche in Oregon's green economy. Expand our Latino entrepreneurial presence in the emerging green economy through partnerships with sustainability-focused nonprofits, local government and higher education.
3. Promote cross-generational leadership "learning - transition" programs. Develop cross-generational leadership and mentoring programs that increase our financial literacy and invest in leadership development.



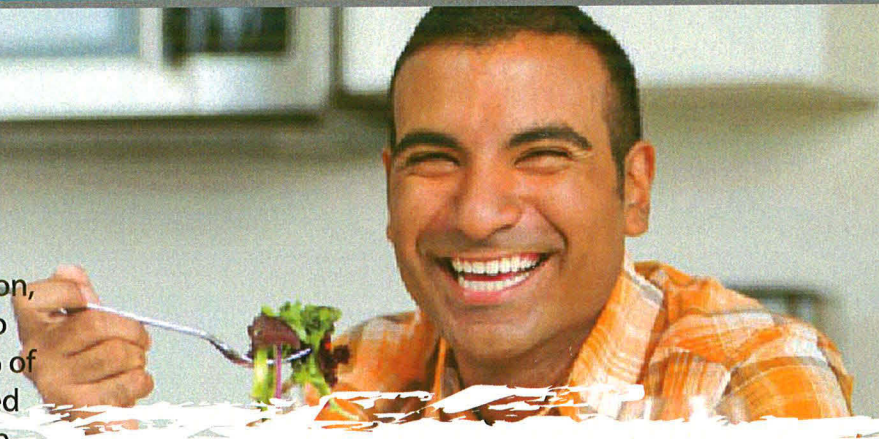


## HEALTH

Over 15 million Latinos, 5% of the total US population, did not have health insurance in 2010. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 34% of Latinos younger than 65 years of age were uninsured in 2010. That is more than twice the uninsured rate of 13.8% observed among non-Hispanic whites. Among adults 65 years or older the uninsured rate for Latinos (5.3%) is 13 times higher than uninsured rates observed among non-Hispanic whites (0.4%). This same comparison holds true in Oregon, where again Latinos are more likely to be uninsured (over 150,000 people) when compared with the general population.

Language and education barriers are also significant factors in limiting Latinos' access to health care. Nationally, 35.2% of the Latino population over the age of 5 years report speaking English less than "very well." In Oregon, 33.6% report speaking English less than "very well." This, combined with very low education levels among many new Americans, means that even when Latinos are able to access health care services, many have trouble truly making informed decisions and appropriately advocating for themselves and their families.

Another major issue regarding the health of Latinos in the US is the rising rate of obesity and associated diseases including diabetes, asthma and heart disease. Studies suggest that diabetes strikes Latinos at younger ages than the non-Hispanic white population (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010). 38.5% of Latino children age 12-19 years were overweight or obese in 2008 (Profiles of Latino Health, 2011). Further, nearly half (46%) of Oregonian 8th and 11th graders report getting less than the recommended activity level of at least 60 minutes most days of the week (Oregon Public Health Division, Oregon Healthy Teens).



Additionally, the impacts of poverty, combined with lifestyle trends that include sitting in front of the television, little physical activity and limited access to healthy foods disproportionately increases the risk for chronic diseases among Latinos. Consequently, the longer Latinos live in the U.S., the more their risk for diabetes and other chronic diseases increases (Vega, Rodriguez, & Gruskin, August 2009).

Currently, one in every five children in the U.S. today is Latino. Latino children are also the fastest growing segment of the child population in the U.S. They are also the hungriest, comprising 40% of the hungry children in the U.S. (Profiles of Latino Health, 2011).

### FOR OLAA PARTICIPANTS, THE KEY HEALTH ISSUES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

1. Cultivate health-focused Latino leaders. Increase Latino presence and leadership in health policy development and health-related governance bodies, boards and commissions.
2. Invest in public health and prevention education. Create increased public and philanthropic partnerships to increase public health and education outreach in chronic disease prevention and reproductive health through social media, community partnerships and events.
3. Expand our capacity to explore Latino mental health issues. Create a network of Latino mental health professionals to facilitate coordinated work on issues of domestic violence, family relationships, teen pregnancy, gender and other issues.







## IMMIGRATION

America's recent immigration debate is one of paradoxes. Ideas such as: Latino immigration is stealing jobs from legal U.S. citizens; undocumented immigrants are costing the nation and state millions for social services, and that the U.S. is a country of native citizens, are all ideas that can and should be challenged. Currently, 11.2 million people are living in the United States as unauthorized immigrants. The number of unauthorized immigrants in the US has tripled since 1990. An estimated 58% are from Mexico. In Oregon, the population of unauthorized immigrants is estimated at 150,000.

Immigrants are an important part of the labor force in the U.S. Immigrants have higher participation levels in the labor force than the native born population. Currently, unauthorized immigrants represent an estimated 3.7% of the population, but 5.2% of the labor force. Immigrants are also more entrepreneurial. In fact, they are 30% more likely to form new businesses than US-born citizens (Hamilton Project, Brookings Institute, 2010). A study conducted in Portland in 2008 reported that immigrants accounted for 12% of the total economic output of the metro area, and the US Census Bureau reports that in 2008, immigrants comprised 12.2% of Oregon's workforce.

### OLAA'S IMMIGRATION PRIORITIES INCLUDE:

1. Advocate for driver's license access. Advocate with legislators to create driver's license access for undocumented Oregonians.
2. Develop strategic, balanced messaging about immigration. Develop and fund an issue campaign that balances the negative immigration discourse by emphasizing the economic, social, and educational impact.
3. Raise awareness about effects of discriminatory immigration practices. Educate broader non-Latino community about discriminatory immigration practices and its effects on Oregon.

## LATINO LEADERSHIP IN OREGON

Across all the areas discussed at the Summit, the theme of Latino leadership featured largely. The 2010 Census Bureau indicated that the Latino population would exceed 50 million by 2011. This transformation indicates that 1 in 6 Americans are Latino: among U.S. children, Hispanics are roughly 1 in 5. Latinos are major consumers of healthcare, and other industries and will form the bulk of our labor-force growth in the next decade. This demand on the marketplace also directs us towards the readiness, capacity, competency and resources of industry and provider organizations to respond by inviting Latinos to policy tables. This growth is predicted to result in a shift of 12 House seats and electoral votes affecting 18 states in the 2012 elections.





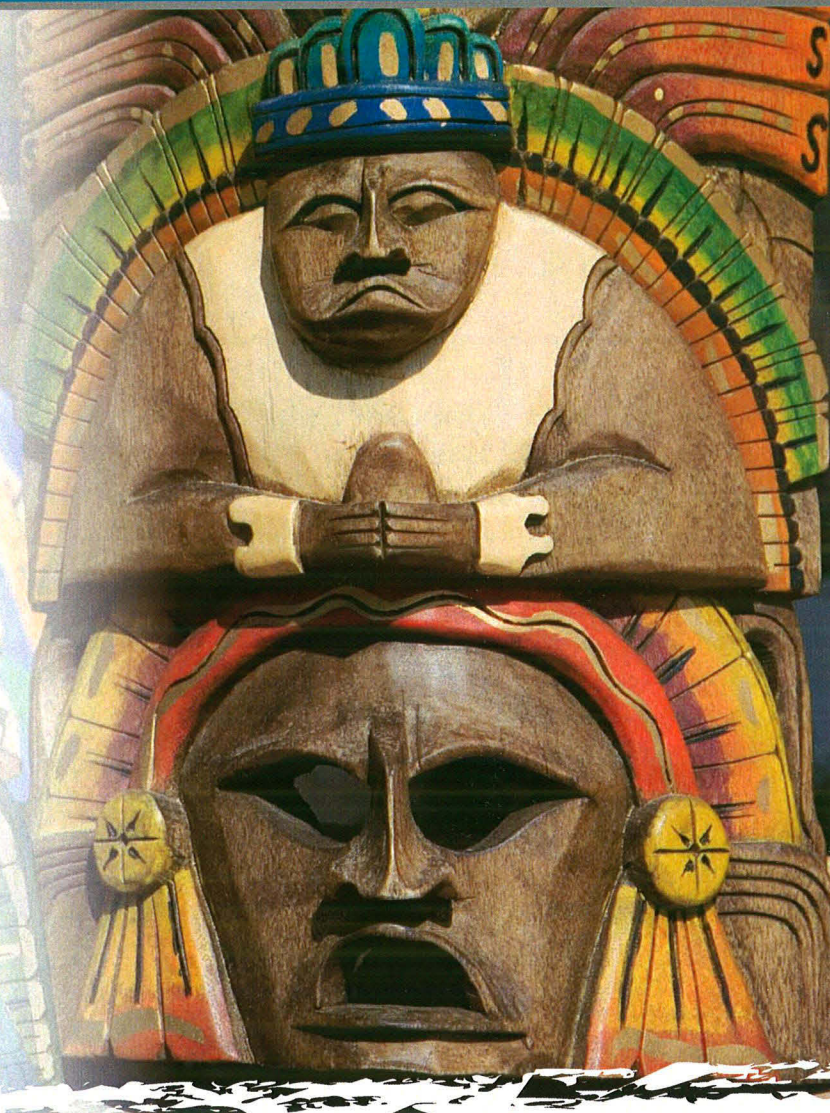
U.S.-born Latinos are young. In 2009, 18% of the estimated Latino population was less than 5 years old. 45% of Summit participants indicated that they were between the ages of 26-39. Yet, representation of Latinos in leadership positions, including in for-profit and non-profit companies, and at higher-education institutions, is dismally low.

The dialogue in each of the four major issue tracks at the OLAA Summit focused on the lack of open doors into positions of power and influence; the lack of visibility of Latino leadership in governments and businesses; and on the challenges of human resource policies in companies as they relate to a lack of mentorship programs and an absence of policies for inclusion and leadership development.

Today, more than ever, the need for visible, strong and reasoned Latino Leadership is great. A statewide assessment is needed of current programs that develop Latino leadership across all sectors in this state. The assessment should provide relevant and timely information that identifies leadership program gaps, parent development, a pipeline for elected office, student leadership, and civic engagement, as examples. Nurturing and mentoring today's children and youth is also critical in creating tomorrow's leaders.

## LATINO ARTS AND CULTURE IN OREGON

The Hispanic people are legendary artists who have traveled great distances to share their stories and artisanship. In Oregon, the creative work of these young and elder artists reflects their proud heritage and provides the fabric that weaves diverse Latino people from many different nations together.



On the first day of the Summit, a section was devoted to the subject area of Latino Arts and Culture. The goal was to find out the level of involvement of the community and access to these activities in Oregon. A large majority of participants expressed that they attend Latino arts and cultural events at least two or more times per year, including dance, music, theatre, literary readings, art galleries, museums, festivals, celebrations, and holiday events. Additionally, 80% of participants shared that Latino Arts and Cultural events are somewhat difficult or nearly impossible to find and access, depending on geographic location.

Arts, culture and social sustainability are critical for the Latino community. Despite the great diversity of experiences, Latinos share and cultivate relationships through culture, artistic expression and the celebration of history, music, and theatre.





# OLAA's

## NEXT STEPS

The next step in the process of driving this agenda forward is for OLAA to build organizational strength. OLAA is currently completing the process of applying for 501(c)3 nonprofit status, which the organization has identified as the next key step for growth. OLAA has also created a highly functional, content rich website [www.olaaction.org](http://www.olaaction.org) that provides information and encourages community building for its participants and for Latinos throughout Oregon.

In the coming months, OLAA will continue to develop its organizational capacity and move to the development of another statewide summit in 2012, as well as to develop a policy call to action for Latinos statewide.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

OLAA would like to extend a special thanks to all Summit participants and panelists. Additionally, OLAA would like to acknowledge the work of the Summit Steering Committee:

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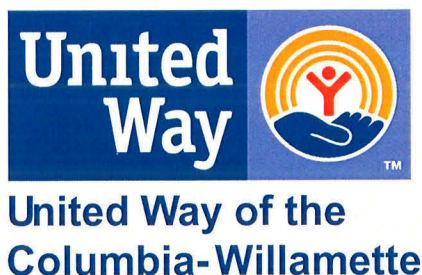
# THANK YOU

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Thank you to Meyer Memorial Trust for their generous support which made the OLAA Summit Report possible. And a special thank you to United Way of the Columbia-Willamette and the City of Portland for their additional support.



## Meyer Memorial Trust



### SUMMIT SUPPORTERS:

Thank you to the many Summit supporters and donors that helped to make the Inaugural Summit a success.



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